



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE
THERAPY PRACTICE

Brown's Stages of Expressive Language Development

What types of sentences should my child be using and at what age?

Brown's Stages of expressive language provide a framework for typical expressive language development that both professionals and parents can refer to. It is amazing to observe the way that children learn language and how they develop from simple two word sentences to using complicated grammatical structures. Children develop their expressive language skills through play and by listening to others.

| Brown's Stage | Age in Months | Mean Length of Utterance (MLU) | MLU range | Morphological structures | Examples |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--|---|
| Stage I | 15-30 | 1.75 | 1.5-2 | Nomination Negation denial Negation rejection Negation non-existence Action + Agent Action + Object Agent + Object Action + Locative Entity + Locative Possessor + Possession Entity + Attributive Demonstrative + Entity | That car No wee wee No more Birdie go Go Daddy Bounce ball Baby cup In bath Dolly bed Kim car Water hot That train |
| Stage II | 28-36 | 2.25 | 2-2.5 | Present progressive –ing Preposition - in Preposition – on Regular plurals -s | It going In box On box My cars |
| Stage III | 36-42 | 2.75 | 2.5-3 | Irregular past tense Possessive plurals 's Uncontractible copula | Me fell down Man's book Is it Alison? |
| Stage IV | 40-46 | 3.5 | 3-3.7 | Articles Regular past tense Third person regular present tense | A book She jumped Puppy brings it |
| Stage V | 42-52+ | 4 | 3.7-4.5 | Third person irregular tense Uncontractible auxiliary Contractible copula Contractible auxiliary | He does Are they swimming? She's ready He's going |